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Message Text

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61
ORIGIN AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CCO-00

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O 222326Z JUL 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ACOM, CG, US
REF: KINSHASA 6787
SUBJ:PROBLEMS WITH ZAIRE'S GROUND STATION
FOR AMBASSADOR VANCE
1. DEPTOFF DISCUSSED GROUND STATION PROBLEM JULY 22 WITH ITT SPACE COMMUNICATIONS MARKETING MANAGER TONY BASILE AND OTHERS INVOLVED IN COMPANY'S ZAIRE BUSINESS.

2. GROUND STATION PROBLEM. ITT FIRST LEARNED OF POSSIBLE DIFFICULTY WITH GROUND STATION EARLY JULY 22 WHEN IT RECEIVED URGENT TELEX FROM ITS KINSHASA AGENT TRANSMITTING REQUEST FROM ONPTZ (NATIONAL OFFICE OF POSTS AND TELECOM-MUNICATIONS OF ZAIRE) FOR DISPATCH OF HPA (HIGH POWER AMPLIFIER) ENGINEER TO CHECK TWO TRANSMITTERS OF NSELE EARTH STATION PRIOR TO VISIT OF FRENCH PRESIDENT GUISCARD D'ESTAING AUGUST 8. COMPANY SENT IMMEDIATE REPLY ASKING THAT ONPTZ INDICATE SPECIFIC NATURE AND ESTIMATED DURATION OF JOB AND TO REPORT ON OPERATING CONDITION OF THE TRANS-
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MITTERS, TO PERMIT ITT TO ANTICIPATE ANY PARTS REQUIREMENTS.

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BASILE ASSURED DEPTOFF THAT ITT IS PREPARED DISPATCH SOME-
ONE WITHIN A FEW DAYS AS SOON AS ONTPZ ADVISES IT OF
SPECIFICS OF PROBLEM. DEPENDING UPON NATURE OF DIFFICULTY,
INDIVIDUAL WOULD BE FROM ITT OR FROM EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURER,
ADEN ENERGY SYSTEMS. ITT IS ALERTING ADEN IN ADVANCE.
PROMPT TRAVEL WILL DEPEND UPON EXPEDITIOUS RECEIPT

OF ZAIRIAN VISA. AS SOON AS ONTPZ INFORMATION RECEIVED,
ITT WILL PASS DEPARTMENT NAME OF PERSON TO BE SENT AND
DEPARTMENT WILL INFORM EMBASSY KINSHASA,WHICH SHOULD ASK
GOZ TO CABLE VISA PERMISSION TO ITS WASHINGTON EMBASSY.

3. MOBUTU'S CRITICISM OF ITT AND ITS TRAINING OF ZAIRIAN
CADRES. EARTH STATION INAUGURATED 6/30/71. ACCORDING
BASILE, ITT PROVIDED OPERATIONS STAFF OF SEVEN FOR STATION
FOR FIRST SIX MONTHS, CONCURRENTLY GIVING ON-THE-JOB AND
CLASSROOM TRAINING IN OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE TO
ZAIRIAN TECHNICIANS. FOR SUCCEEDING EIGHTEEN MONTHS,
TWO ITT EMPLOYEES REMAINED AS BACKUP TO ZAIRIAN STAFF.

BEFORE AND DURING ALI-FOREMAN FIGHT, ITT PROVIDED TWO
TECHNICIANS TO INSTALL ADDITIONAL VOICE CIRCUITRY AND BACK-
STOP OVERALL OPERATION. OTHERWISE, STATION HAS BEEN RUN
ENTIRELY BY LOCAL EMPLOYEES FOR PAST TWO YEARS; ACCORDING
TO BASILE, WHO VISITED IT IN FEBRUARY OF THIS YEAR,
OPERATION HAS GONE WELL. IF PROBLEM HAS DEVELOPED WHICH
REQUIRES HPA SPECIALIST, THAT IS NO REFLECTION ON
ADEQUACY OF ITT TRAINING OR ZAIRIAN STAFF. BASILE BE-
LIEVES ITT HAS BEEN RESPONSIVE TO GOZ NEEDS AND REQUESTS,
AND HE FINDS MOBUTU'S CRITICISM SURPRISING.

4. FYI. PAYMENTS DUE FROM GOZ. BASILE STATES GOZ STILL
OWES ITT $120,000 FOR EQUIPMENT AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT
PROVIDED IN CONJUNCTION WITH FIGHT. PAYMENT IS AT LEAST
FOUR TO FIVE MONTHS OVERDUE. HANOVER MFGS TRUST IN NEW
YORK IS HOLDING UNCONFIRMED LETTER OF CREDIT(CONTRACT
CALLED FOR CONFIRMED LETTER OF CREDIT) FROM BANK OF KIN-
SHASA WHICH LATTER HAS ADVISED IT DOES NOT HAVE FOREIGN
EXCHANGE TO COVER AT THIS TIME. ITT IS ALSO OUT OF POCKET
ABOUT $15,000 ON PARTS DELIVERED END 1973 OR BEGINNING OF
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1974 (SHIPMENT OF REMAINDER OF $35,000 ORDER HAS BEEN DE-
FERRED PENDING RECEIPT OF PAYMENT FOR EQUIPMENT ALREADY
SHIPPED). FURTHER DETAILS CAN BE PROVIDED BY ITT KIN-
SHASA REPS M. D'ARRYPE AND J.P. DELEU, BELL TELEPHONE
MANUFACTURING (BTM), TEL. 25292. END FYI.

5. BASILE REGARDS ITT RELATIONSHIP WITH ZAIRE AS GOOD AND
SAYS COMPANY HOPES TO DO FURTHER BUSINESS THERE. IN

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FEBRUARY IT SUBMITTED PRELIMINARY PROPOSAL FOR DOMESTIC SATELLITE SYSTEM (RADIO/TV/COMMUNICATIONS) TO FORMER PTT MINISTER TCHOMBA, WHO WAS VERY ENTHUSIASTIC. COMPANY ASSUMES FINANCIAL CRISIS PLUS TCHOMBA'S DISMISSAL HAVE PUT PROJECT ON ICE BUT IS READY TO PURSUE IT WHENEVER GOZ INDICATES RENEWED INTEREST. KISSINGER

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